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**INFORMATION REPORT**

CD NO.

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

DATE DISTR. 18 SEP, 50

SUBJECT The Rabrovo Chrome Mine

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1. The Rabrovo chrome mines are located at Rabrovo about three kilometers east of Valandovo.
2. The mine has only one pit. The first gallery, which was exhausted in November 1948, is located at a depth of 28 meters. The second gallery is located at a depth of 50 meters, and the third gallery at 75 meters. In the winter of 1949, the pit was drilled to a depth of 100 meters, the elevator was extended, and a gangway about 30 meters long was built. The water pump from the third gallery was placed in the fourth gallery, and equipment to channel water from the third gallery to the fourth was erected. Digging of ore in the fourth gallery started in November or December 1949.
3. A special commission was to check the newly emplaced equipment but never arrived and, in January 1950, the water pump was returned to the third gallery. The extra 25 meters of pit (from the 75 meter to the 100 meter depth) and the new gallery were filled with water in March 1950.
4. The mines have one blacksmith shop and one machine shop, which are open only from six in the morning until two in the afternoon.
5. A power plant of German manufacture supplies the mines with electricity. The power plant has two dynamos and a gasoline-driven motor. The motor generally has to be repaired every three months, but, because of the lack of spare parts, repairs are becoming more and more difficult. The power plant works three eight-hour shifts, operated by one technician on each shift. The plant supplies electric energy for the freight elevators, two water pumps driven by electric motors, and lights for the mines as well as the villages of Rabrovo and Valandovo.
6. The daily gasoline consumption of the power plant averages 130 kilograms per day. The supplies of gasoline and motor oil are sufficient and satisfy the demand, and there has been no shortage for three years.
7. Rabrovo mine machinery consists of the following:
  - a. A one-ton capacity elevator operated by electricity. The elevator is used only for lifting one cart of ore at a time.
  - b. Two electric water pumps in good condition. One is located on the second

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gallery at a depth of 50 meters, and the other is on the third gallery at a depth of 75 meters. Each extracts 350 liters of water per minute.

- a. Two four-ton trucks of unknown make. One is in good condition, but the other is idle eight to ten days per month because of repairs. One small sedan of unknown make is used by the mine director and the chairman of the mine cooperative. Repairs are made in the mine's machine shop.
  - d. About 60 four-wheeled rail carts pushed by men to the elevators.
  - e. There are 10 compressor drills. Out of use since September 1947 because the engine which operates them is broken. During their retreat, the Germans destroyed the motor which operated the compressor drills. In June or July 1947 the mines received a new engine from Czechoslovakia which was operative for only two months; there are no spare parts and thus it cannot be repaired. As of March 1950 the mine was operating without compressor drills.
  - f. Some 150 drills and about 200 hand picks. There are no reserve supplies of these items.
8. A sufficient supply of shovels, hammers, and carbide lamps are stored at the cooperative warehouse, but no spare machine parts or reserves of essential equipment. Work clothing is ordinarily furnished to the miners by the mine cooperative every six months or according to need. Most often these requirements are not met. Boots are furnished only to about 10 men who push the loaded carts along the main gangway of each gallery to the elevator. Miners have to provide shoes for themselves at their own expense. Civilian clothes can be purchased through ration coupons at the mine cooperative. Each miner gets 200 coupon points for clothing, and about 120 are needed for a civilian suit. Ten are needed for one shirt; one civilian suit costs about 4,000 dinars, one shirt 180 to 200 dinars, and a pair of shoes about 400 dinars. Up to mid-summer 1949, shirts could be purchased on the free market for 900 dinars each but since that time no clothing can be bought without coupons.
9. The mine currently employs about 300 workers. About 200 work in the pit and the remainder are surface workers and cooperative employees. No prisoners or people sentenced to forced labor work in the mine. The average pay of the 200 miners is 2,800 to 4,500 dinars per month depending on the type of work and the amount of work done. Communists receive higher pay. There is an acute lack of competent engineers, administrators and skilled workers.
10. It is estimated that the mine produces about 30 tons of chrome ore per day, which is then transported to Mravince and thence by rail to Skoplje. In the mine, the ore which has been dug is separated from stones by a force of 10 women and about 20 children. In Skoplje the ore is prepared for further shipment.
11. The mine is under the jurisdiction of the Mine Directorate of the People's Republic of Macedonia in Skoplje. The Director (unnamed) of the mine receives orders directly from Skoplje. The assistant director, a certain Trajko, is also chief of personnel, and Petar Stomenu is chairman of the Rabrovo mine cooperative. Trajko and Stomenu, both Communists, collaborate closely. Since 1946, the technical director has been Alojz Benko, a Slovene, about 50 years old. Benko is a member of the Communist Party, but sides with the workers in their criticisms and protests. Communists have established efficient control over the workers by limiting the validity of their ration coupons to the cooperatives, thus preventing the workers from leaving the mines since they cannot obtain coupons otherwise.
12. Every worker must work six months in the mines before he is granted ration coupons for clothing or any other commodities (except food and soap). If a worker is absent from work without an excuse, the personnel office withholds one part of his food coupons, and immediately informs the mine cooperative to that effect. The most frequent punishment is cutting down the bread ration 50 percent for 15 days.
13. The mines have one mess which feeds 50 to 60 workers two meals a day, one dish per meal. A dish consists of soup and vegetables, and two or three times a week a meat dish.

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rationed. Workers pay 1,000 dinars a month for food, and only single workers eat in the mine mess. Pit workers get one kilogram of rationed bread daily, and surface workers get 750 grams daily. Workers who live with their families in Rabrovo, Valandovo or vicinity get the following food rations per month: one and one-half grams of lard, seven and one-half kilograms of meat, fourteen kilograms of corn flour, and fourteen grams of wheat flour.

14. Single workers live in three barracks which accommodate 15 to 20 persons each. Rent averages 120 dinars per worker; there are no chairs, tables, or wardrobe. The beds have two blankets and are supplied by the cooperative. Older workers have bed sheets and pillow cases, but these are no longer furnished by the cooperative. Water faucets are placed in front of the barracks, the water supply is extremely limited and is turned off 15 to 16 hours per day.
15. Attendance at co-operative meetings, held once or twice a week, is compulsory. The chairman and regular spokesman is Stomenu. The low morals of the workers is caused by a general dissatisfaction with living conditions, the shortage of clothing, foodstuffs, and unsanitary conditions. There is open criticism and protests are voiced at the meetings. Communist officials have not counteracted these complaints because they have been unable to keep their promise of improving conditions, and for the past eleven months no measures have been taken against protesting workers.

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